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Southern District of New York*

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**BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN U.S. PRISON  
FOR ROLE IN ARMED INVASION OF HOME IN PIERMONT, NEW YORK**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DANIEL SOTO, 22, of the Bronx, New York, was sentenced in White Plains federal court today to eight years in prison following his conviction on federal conspiracy, robbery and weapons charges in connection with an armed invasion of a private home in Piermont, New York on June 5, 2002. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON.

According to Complaints filed in the case, on the morning of June 5, 2002, SOTO and his co-conspirator, Daniel Feliciano, 28, also of the Bronx, entered the private home of Joseph Raso in Piermont, where they used and brandished a loaded gun to conduct an armed robbery of the premises. According to the Complaints, SOTO and Feliciano tied up and restrained the inhabitants of the home, including Mr. Raso and two of Mr. Raso's house guests, with duct tape and neckties. According to the Complaints, SOTO and Felicia no told Mr. Raso that he owed a debt, and one of the men made a threatening comment about one of

Mr. Raso's children. As a result of the threatened physical violence, Mr. Raso identified a particular item in his home which contained jewelry and a substantial amount of cash, which cash Mr. Raso had acquired through his interstate beer distribution company, Raso Beer Distributing, Inc. According to the Complaints, SOTO and Feliciano left the Raso premises with approximately \$100,000 in cash and jewelry.

According to the Complaints, the armed home invasion was orchestrated and planned by Raymond Accolla, 50, of Suffern, New York, Preston Young, 65, of Palisades Park, New Jersey, and Michael Williamson, 31, of Manhattan, New York, as well as Feliciano and SOTO. According to the Complaints, Accolla, Young and Williamson waited outside the Raso premises in a car while the robbery took place, and communicated with Feliciano and SOTO by way of cellular telephone during the robbery. According to the Complaints, Accolla, Young, Williamson, Feliciano and SOTO divided the proceeds of the home invasion shortly after Feliciano and SOTO left the Raso premises.

The perpetrators of this crime were identified after an investigation conducted jointly by numerous law enforcement agencies, including the Piermont, New York, and Clarkstown, New York, Police Departments, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition to SOTO, the investigation has, to date, resulted in the prosecution and conviction of Accolla, Williamson and Feliciano on federal robbery and weapons charges, and all are awaiting sentencing by Judge ROBINSON. Preston Young

is scheduled to be tried on these charges before Judge ROBINSON in October 2004.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Piermont and Clarkstown Police Departments and the FBI.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN B. LEIKEN is in charge of the prosecution.

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